

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 OTTAWA 01296 091950Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15  
TRSE-00 OMB-01 /070 W  
-----092004Z 090932 /41  
R 041849Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2670

UNCLAS OTTAWA 01296

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, CA  
SUBJECT: LOCAL REACTION TO TRUDEAU VISIT

FOLLOWING REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION:

QUOTE

O 011745Z MAR 77  
FM AMCONSUL HALIFAX  
TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE 0656

UNCLAS HALIFAX PPIR

E O 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, CA  
SUBJECT: LOCAL REACTION TO TRUDEAU VISIT  
REF: OTTAWA 01025, HALIFAX 0084

1. CONOFF INTERVIEWED MAYOR OF HALIFAX EDMUND MORRIS,  
NOVA SCOTIA MINISTER OF HOUSING AND LABOR WALTER  
FITZGERALD, ATLANTIC PROVINCES GENERAL MANAGER OF ROYAL  
BANK J CLIFF SINCLAIR, AND SEVERAL OTHER RESIDENTS  
OF HALIFAX.

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WM OPINION WAS UNANIMOUS THAT TRUDEAU S WASHINGTON  
VISIT WAS GREAT SUCCESS FOR PRIME MINISTER, THAT HE  
ENHANCED HIS IMAGE AS LEADER OF FEDERALIST FORCES  
AND THAT HE HAS REFURBISHED HIS STATUS AS LEADER OF THE  
LIBERAL PARTY.

3. MAYOR MORRIS TOLD US THAT HE WAS IN OTTAWA ON DAY

OF PRIME MINISTER S SPEECH BEFORE CONGRESS. MORRIS TALKED WITH SEVERAL POLITICIANS AND CIVIL SERVANTS AND FOUND OPINION WAS THAT TRUDEAU HAD "REINVIGORATED FEDERAL CASE". MORRIS, A LIBERAL BUT NOT A GREAT ADMIRER OF TRUDEAU, THINKS SPEECH WAS "JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED" AND "PUT EVENTS IN CANADA IN PERSPECTIVE" BEFORE THE REST OF THE WORLD. MORRIS FEELS SPEECH WAS NOT ABRASIVE BUT RATHER A CLEAR STATEMENT OF DETERMINATION TO KEEP CANADA UNITED. MORRIS SAID HE "FEELS BETTER AS A RESULT OF TRUDEAU S VISIT TO WASHINGTON".

4. MINISTER FITZGERALD SAID THAT HE WAS EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH PRESIDENT CARTER S CORDIAL RECEPTION OF THE PRIME MINISTER. FITZGERALD BELIEVES THAT VISIT SET "VERY GOOD TONE FOR FUTURE CANADIAN-U S RELATIONS". HE SAID THAT HE HAS NOT HEARD ANY CRITICISM OF THE VISIT OR TRUDEAU SPEECH. FITZGERALD THINKS VISIT PROVIDED PRIME MINISTER WITH OPPORTUNITY TO STATE CANADA S POSITION BEFORE WORLD AND THAT TRUDEAU MADE EXCELLENT USE OF THE FORUM PROVIDED. HE IS CERTAIN THAT TRUDEAU POSITION WITHIN LIBERAL PARTY HAS BEEN MUCH IMPROVED AS A RESULT OF THE VISIT.

5. HALIFAX "CHRONICLE-HERALD" CANADIAN AFFAIRS EDITOR PETER MEERBURG S ARTICLE, "PM MAY BENEFIT FROM PQ WIN", IN THE FEB 28 EDITION SAID "TRUDEAU S ELOQUENT RESOLVE TO KEEP QUEBEC WITHIN CONFEDERATION - ESPECIALLY HIS MUCH APPLAUDED ADDRESS TO THE U S CONGRESS UNCLASSIFIED

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LAST WEEK - HAS SERVED TO HELP CANADIANS FORGET, AT LEAST FOR NOW, ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT S MANY WARTS AND WEAKNESSES". MEERBURG CONTINUED SAYING THAT "TRUDEAU S MINISTERS AND SENIOR PARTY BRASS HAVE LAUNCHED A VIGOROUS VERBAL CAMPAIGN TO SELL THE PRIME MINISTER AND PARENTHETICALLY, THE LIBERAL PARTY, AS THE SAVIOUR(S) OF CONFEDERATION". MEERBURG REPORTED ON THE NOVA SCOTIA LIBERAL PARTY S ANNUAL MEETING OVER THE WEEKEND AND ON THE SPEECHES BY PRIVY COUNCIL PRESIDENT ALAN MAC EACHEN, N S PREMIER REGAN AND OTHERS, NOTING THAT WHILE THE MEETING WAS PRIMARILY ON "NOVA SCOTIA-ORIENTED ISSUES, THE PERVADING UNDERCURRENT WAS NATIONAL UNITY". MEERBURG QUOTED THE "NOVA SCOTIA LIBERAL", THE PARTY S IN-HOUSE NEWSPAPER, AS SAYING "FROM BEING AN ELECTORAL LIABILITY, MR TRUDEAU HAS BECOME THE GREATEST ASSET THE LIBERAL PARTY, AND CANADA CAN POSSIBLY HAVE AT THIS TIME".

6. COMMENT: AS REPORTED IN HALIFAX REFTEL AND PREVIOUS,

TRUDEAU S VISIT TO WASHINGTON HAS BEEN RECEIVED WITH  
NOTHING BUT PRAISE IN ATLANTIC CANADA. THE VISIT IS  
BEING JUDGED AS PROVIDING A NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR THE  
PRIME MINISTER TO ASSERT HIS LEADERSHIP, ONE WHICH HE  
AND HIS SUPPORTERS SEEM TO BE BEGINNING TO USE.

MOORE  
UNQUOTE  
ENDERS

UNCLASSIFIED

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PGOV, PINT, CA, (TRUDEAU, PIERRE), (MORRIS, EDMUND), (FITZGERALD, WALTER)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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